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PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

NEW MISSILE AIRFRAME UNDER DEVELOPMENT AT DNEPROPETROVSK MISSILE DEVELOPMENT PRODUCTION CENTER, USSR

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME	COUNTRY
New Missile Airframe Under Development at Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Production Center	UR

UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES
NA	48-26-11N 034-59-32E

MAP REFERENCE

SAC. USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0234-21, scale 1:200,000

	NEGATION DATE (If required)
	NA
REQUIREMENT	NPIC PROJECT
NA	120301NA

SUMMARY

1. A large, new type of missile airframe, currently undergoing testing at the Tyuratam Missile Test Center (TTMTC), probably has been under development at the Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Production Center (DMDPC) for the last four to five years. Airframe/tankage sections and other airframe components compatible with sections of this type of airframe were first seen at Plant 186 of DMDPC in 1968 and 1969. However, changes to facilities within key areas of the DMDPC suggest that this missile airframe has been under development at least since 1967. New production facilities nearing completion at Plant 186 in July 1972 probably are related to development of the new missile and could be operational by early to mid-1973.

DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ACTIVITY

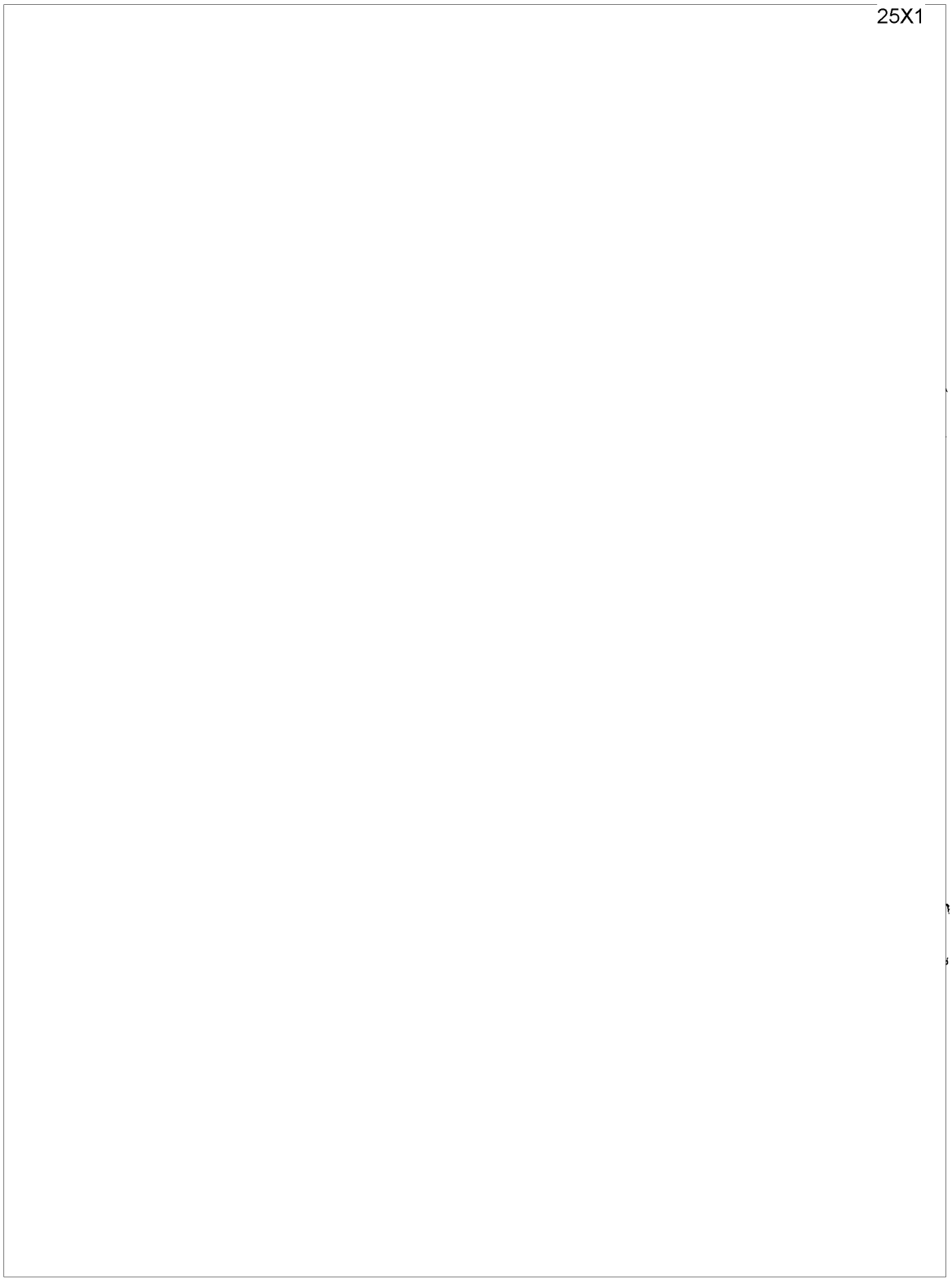
2. Two large, canvas-covered missile airframes have been identified at Plant 186, Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Center. One was identified on photography [redacted]. The airframes were similar in size and configuration to the new missile airframe observed at TTMTC. Airframe/tankage sections, end closures, and possible interstage ring sections compatible with sections of this new type of missile airframe have been observed at the prototype production facility and the structural test and evaluation area of Plant 186 since at least August 1969 and were possibly present as early as June 1968.[1, 2] These airframes/tankage sections are also the same size as the larger sections of debris observed at Launch Complex H at TTMTC.[3]

3. A dimensional drawing of the new missile airframe, as seen at the TTMTC (Figure 2), shows the basic airframe configuration and the respective sizes of its section. Airframe/tankage sections observed at the DMDPC [redacted] that can be equated to sections of that airframe are shown in Figure 3.

4. Changes to facilities within key areas of the DMDPC, when correlated with the presence of the missile airframe sections at Plant 186 and with activity related to testing of the new missile airframe at the TTMTC, suggest that the new missile airframe has been under development at the DMDPC at least since early 1967. Figure 4 shows the chronology of events and activities which probably are related to development of the new missile airframe.

5. In March 1967, construction began on a new vertical test complex at the rocket engine test facility of DMDPC. The fact that this complex includes a different type, new generation Soviet test stand suggests that it was designed to test new propulsion systems using higher energy propellants.[4] The new test complex was completed and probably fully operational by mid-1969. In early 1969, construction began on a new manufacturing and assembly building in the missile assembly area of Plant 186. This new building, which connects to an existing manufacturing building and is next to the main missile assembly building, was nearing completion by July 1972. It probably will be operational by early to mid-1973. The new building will add approximately 46,400 square meters (500,000 square feet) of new floorspace to the missile assembly area of the plant and, together with the existing manufacturing building, will comprise a production complex of approximately 90,000 square meters (nearly one million square feet) of floorspace.

6. Between late 1970 and mid-to-late 1971, when components for the new type of airframe were seen in quantity at Plant 186, the largest structural test building at the test facility was modified extensively.[2] The building is approximately 38 meters (125 feet) high. This type of building is used for performing various types of structural tests in the vertical mode. Modifications to the building were completed by September 1971, but the building could have been ready for use as early as mid-1971.



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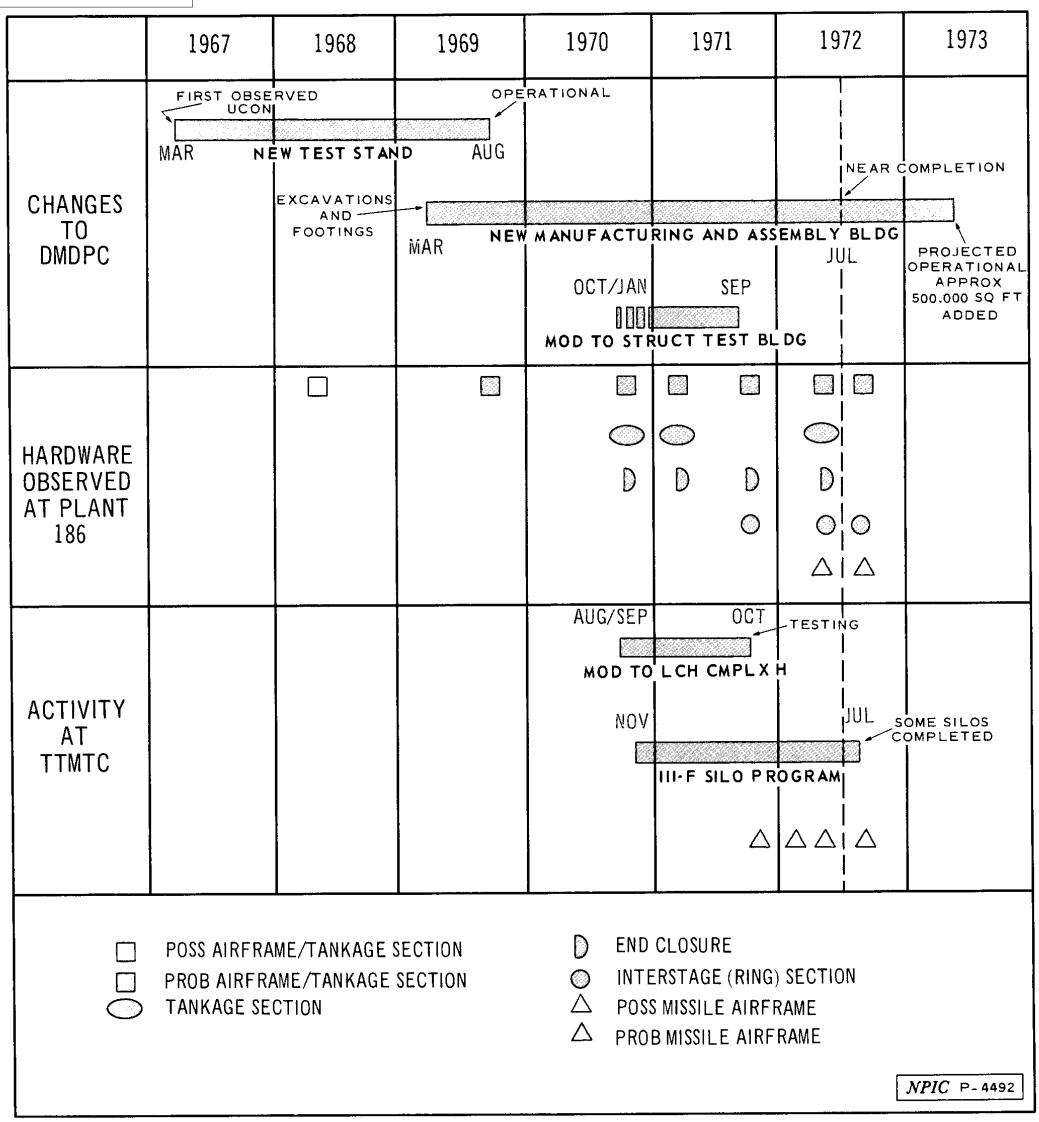

FIGURE 4. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITY PROBABLY RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MISSILE AIRFRAME

REFERENCES

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MAPS AND CHARTS

SAC. USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0234-21, scale 1:200,000

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC, RCA-09/0003/73, *Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Production Center, USSR*, Aug 72 (TOP SECRET RUFF) 25X1

2. NPIC. RCA-09/0007/72, *Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Production Center, USSR*, Aug 71 (TOP SECRET RUFF) 25X1

3. NPIC. PIN-44/72, *Missile Debris and New Missile Airframes and Missile Transporter, Tyuratam and Dnepropetrovsk, USSR*, Apr 72 (TOP SECRET RUFF) 25X1

4. NPIC. RCA-09/0019/71, *Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Production Center, USSR*, Nov 70 (TOP SECRET RUFF) 25X1

REQUIREMENT

NPIC/IEG/SD/SIB Project 120301NA

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